

II. Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 8, 14 and 27-42 are pending herein.

Claims 4, 11, 12 and 15-19 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 8 and 14 have been amended.

Claims 27-42 have been added.

1-3 (previously canceled)

4. (canceled)

5-7 (previously canceled)

8. (currently amended) A flotation device for supporting a user in the water, comprising a pair of buoyant front panels; a closure connecting said front panels; a pair of side connecting panels extending from said front panels, respectively, for disposition beneath the arms of the user; a buoyant back panel connected to said side connecting panels; a buoyant bottom connecting panel extending from said front panels to said back panel for disposition between the user's legs and floating the user in the water wherein said front panels, said back panel and said bottom connecting panel are constructed of a buoyant expanded foam material and comprising a flexible cover enclosing said buoyant expanded foam material of said front panels, said back panel and said bottom connecting panel;

(a) a buoyant head support panel hingedly ~~connected~~ affixed to said back panel for floating disposition beneath the user's head and supporting the user's head above the water and wherein said head support panel is constructed of an expanded foam material and comprising a flexible cover enclosing said buoyant expanded foam material of said head support panel; and

(b) a pair of shoulder straps extending from said front panels and a connecting strap connected to said shoulder straps and said back panel for positioning said shoulder straps over the shoulders of the user.

9. (previously canceled)

10. (previously canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (previously canceled)

14. (currently amended) A flotation device for supporting a user in the water, comprising a pair of buoyant front panels; a closure connecting said front panels; a pair of side connecting panels extending from said front panels, respectively, for disposition beneath the arms of the user; a buoyant back panel connected to said side connecting panels; a buoyant bottom connecting panel extending from said front panels to said back panel for disposition between the user's legs and floating the user in the water;

at least one tether connected to said flotation device for connecting said flotation device to a second flotation device;

(a) a buoyant head support panel hingedly ~~connected~~ attached directly to said back panel for floating disposition beneath a the user's head and supporting the user's head above the water and wherein said head support panel is constructed of a buoyant expanded foam material and comprising a flexible cover enclosing said buoyant expanded foam material of said head support; and

(b) a pair of shoulder straps extending from said front panels and a connecting strap connected to said shoulder straps and said back panel for positioning said shoulder straps over the shoulders of the user.

15-19 (canceled)

20-26 (previously canceled)

27. (new) The flotation device of claim 8 further comprising at least one tether connected to said flotation device for connecting said flotation device to a second flotation device.

28. (new) The flotation device of claim 8 further comprising at least one connecting clip provided on each of said front panels for clipping said flotation device to a second flotation device.

29. (new) The flotation device of claim 8 wherein one end of said bottom connecting panel is attached to said back panel and comprising a pair of torso clips provided on said front panels, respectively, and a pair of companion bottom connecting panel clips attached to the opposite end of said bottom connecting panel from said one end, for selectively engaging said torso clips, respectively, and removably securing said bottom connecting panel to said front panels, respectively, and said bottom connecting panel between the legs of the user.

30. (new) The flotation device of claim 14 wherein one end of said bottom connecting panel is attached to said back panel and comprising a pair of torso clips provided on said front panels, respectively, and a pair of companion bottom connecting panel clips attached to the opposite end of said bottom connecting panel from said one end, for selectively engaging said torso clips, respectively, and removably securing said

bottom connecting panel to said front panels, respectively, and said bottom connecting panel between the legs of the user.

31. (new) A flotation device for supporting a user in the water, the flotation device comprising:

- a pair of buoyant front panels;
- a closure connecting said front panels;
- a pair of side panels extending from said front panels, respectively, for disposition beneath the arms of the user;
- a buoyant back panel connected to said side panels;
- a bottom panel extending from said front panels to said back panel for disposition between the user's legs; and
- a buoyant head support panel hingedly affixed to said back panel for floating disposition beneath the user's head and supporting the user's head above the water.

32. (new) The flotation device of claim 31 further comprising at least one tether connected to said flotation device for connecting said flotation device to a second flotation device.

33. (new) The flotation device of claim 31 further comprising at least one connecting clip provided on each of said front panels for clipping said flotation device to a second flotation device.

34. (new) The flotation device of claim 31 wherein said bottom panel is buoyant.

35. (new) The flotation device of claim 31 further comprising a pair of shoulder straps having first and second ends wherein said first ends of said shoulder straps are connected to respective ones of said front panels and said second ends of said

shoulder straps are connected to said back panel for positioning said shoulder straps over the shoulders of the user.

36. (new) The flotation device of claim 35 wherein said shoulder straps are removable.

37. (new) A flotation device for supporting a user in the water, the flotation device comprising:

- a pair of buoyant front panels;
- a closure connecting said front panels;
- a pair of side panels extending from said front panels, respectively, for disposition beneath the arms of the user;
- a buoyant back panel connected to said side panels;
- a bottom panel extending from said front panels to said back panel for disposition between the user's legs; and
- a buoyant head support panel hingedly attached directly to said back panel for floating disposition beneath the user's head and supporting the user's head above the water.

38. (new) The flotation device of claim 37 further comprising at least one tether connected to said flotation device for connecting said flotation device to a second flotation device.

39. (new) The flotation device of claim 37 further comprising at least one connecting clip provided on each of said front panels for clipping said flotation device to a second flotation device.

40. (new) The flotation device of claim 37 wherein said bottom panel is buoyant.

41. (new) The flotation device of claim 37 further comprising a pair of shoulder straps having first and second ends wherein said first ends of said shoulder straps are connected to respective ones of said front panels and said second ends of said shoulder straps are connected to said back panel for positioning said shoulder straps over the shoulders of the user.

42. (new) The flotation device of claim 41 wherein said shoulder straps are removable.